



# Fish and Wildlife Conservation

How Fish and Wildlife Dollars Are Used in Your Backyard

## Jefferson County



### **County characteristics**

- 582 sq. mi., population 75,767 (2000 census)
- East ¼ farmland/woodland extending into the Kettle Moraine; west ¾ former prairie/oak savanna with interspersed wetlands, now farmland, dotted with many drained wetlands
- Waters: warm-water streams; 13 lakes including the 10,460 acre Lake Koshkonong which is primarily in Jefferson County, the Rock River, Crawfish River and tributaries
- 16,426 licensed anglers and 10,812 hunters and trappers reside in Jefferson County



Northern Pike held by DNR biologist during netting survey on the Rock River

### **State Land Open to Hunting and Fishing**

There are approximately 17,000 acres of state land including wildlife and fisheries areas, and the Kettle Moraine State Forest in Jefferson County. 15,000 acres open to hunting.

Our Wildlife and Fisheries lands are operated with license dollars. You can locate DNR properties for all your outdoor activities at:

[http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr\\_land\\_mapping.html](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr_land_mapping.html)

### **Fish and Wildlife Staff serving you**

1 Wildlife biologist; 1 Wildlife technician; 1 Conservation Warden (1 warden vacancy) Office: 188 Sandy Beach Road, Lake Mills; 1 Fisheries biologist, 1 Fisheries technician, Office: 2514 Morse St. Janesville

These staff members also serve portions of Dodge and Rock Counties.

### **Activities Funded by Your Hunting and Fishing Dollars**

- Establish and maintain grassland and wetland habitat for ducks, pheasants, and many other wildlife species. Preserve and restore original prairie remnants on public lands.
- Recently acquired 3,400 acres on Prince's Point, Jefferson Marsh, and Waterloo Wildlife Areas which are open to public hunting, and used extensively by birders and hikers
- Established a prairie seed nursery to provide local ecotype prairie seed for local habitat projects.
- Monitor wildlife for diseases including chronic wasting disease (CWD) and West Nile Virus. In 2004, 863 deer were tested for CWD in Jefferson County.
- Band Canada geese, mallards and wood ducks
- Staff an informational display at the Jefferson County Fair
- Wardens patrol the entire county for illegal hunting, trapping and fishing activities. They insure hunting and fishing license compliance as well as protect the state properties from misuse - last year, there were arrests made for construction of permanent tree stands and blinds, underage drinking parties, vandalism to gates, and driving off road
- Supervise the removal of over 1 million pounds of carp from Lake Koshkonong system per year.
- Operate the Lake Mills Hatchery which produces walleye and Coho salmon for statewide stocking
- Reconnect river habitat by installing fishways and removing fish barriers

- Control exotic and invasive species such as purple loosestrife, leafy spurge, wild parsnip, spotted knapweed, thistle, boxelder, buckthorn and honeysuckle to assure quality native habitat
- Manage DNR land by posting public hunting and access sites, build and maintain parking areas
- Monitor local wildlife populations of waterfowl, upland birds, amphibians and endangered species
- Evaluate proposed transportation and other projects for environmental impacts, mitigate damage to wildlife and habitat
- Provide educational programs for schools, conservation organizations and civic groups

### ***County Conservation Snapshots***

- 23 waterway access sites available
- 70 Hotline Complaints responded to by wardens
- 8 Deer and Turkey registration stations set up to provide for 4 distinct seasonal registration needs



Restored oak savanna at Waterloo wildlife area

### ***Fish & Wildlife Stocking Summary***

- 6 Lakes and 5 Rivers typically will receive
  - 2,500 muskies
  - 2 million walleye fry
  - 175,000 walleye fingerling
  - 2 million northern pike fry
- 6 major wildlife areas are normally stocked with 3,000 rooster pheasants, although this was reduced to just 1,060 birds in 2004 due to budget shortfalls

### ***County Success Stories***

- 2,700 acres of wetland on the Jefferson Wildlife Area have been acquired, preserved, and restored, aided by Pheasants Forever and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- 506 acres of drained wetland Prince's Point Wildlife Area were acquired, and the hydrology restored; accomplished with the help of the NRCS and the Wetland Reserve Program.
- Currently working with Madison Audubon Society and the NRCS to restore 1,700 acres of drained wetland in the Lake Mills area
- Local conservation groups assist the DNR in operating the Bark River Fry Hatchery which has produced over 38 million fish for stocking in the Rock River in the last 10 years

### ***Statewide challenges to maintaining your hunting and fishing opportunities***

- Without a fee increase as proposed by Governor Doyle, the Department of Natural Resources will be forced make numerous cuts in:
  - Fish and wildlife stocking programs: Conservation law enforcement; Public hunting acres; Fish and wildlife field biologists and Customer services
- Keeping upland, shoreline and aquatic habitat intact and functional
- Multiple user conflicts - Increasing pressure on public lands
- Rapid growth – urban sprawl
- Nuisance wildlife and invasion by non-native species
- Disease management

***Want to Learn More? Go to [dnr.wi.gov/invest](http://dnr.wi.gov/invest)***

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